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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Luciani	
Application No.: 09/434338	Group Art Unit: 2131
Filed: 11/4/1999	
Title: System, Device, and Method for Supporting Virtual Private Networks in A Label Switched Communications Network	Examiner: Laforgia
Attorney Docket No.: BA0352 120/056	
Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 20, 2003, please enter the below response to this office action as follow:

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 53-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,079,020 to Liu, in view of United States Patent No. 6,347,303 to Armitage.

Liu, U.S. Pat. No. 6,079,020

Liu describes a method and apparatus for managing a virtual private network (VPN) operating over a public data network. The public network includes a plurality of VPN gateways so that communications across the VPN are channeled through the gateways. In one embodiment, a system receives a command and determines which VPN gateways are affected by